

Application No. 10/003,750
Amendment "C" dated April 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed February 8, 2006

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 8, 2006 considered claims 1-59. Claims 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Vong et al. (U.S. 6,917,373). Claims 1-12, 14-18, and 22-28, 31-36, 38, 41-43, 45-50, 52 and 55-57, 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini (U.S. 2001/0047385) in view of Vong et al. (U.S. 6,917,373). Claims 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini-Vong in view of Shigetomi et al. (U.S. 2002/0055951). Claims 29-30 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini – Vong in view of Susaki et al. (U.S. 6,189,032). Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini – Vong in view of Jenkins et al. (U.S. 6,678,682). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini – Vong in view of Robotham et al. (U.S. 2002/0015042). Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being un-patentable over Tuatini – Vong in view of Mache et al. (U.S. 2002/0035533).¹

Initially, it will be noted that each rejection in the last office action relied at least in part on Vong. It will also be noted, however, that Vong does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) in the present case, for obviousness rejections, inasmuch as Vong is commonly assigned to Microsoft Corporation, the assignee of the present application, and because Vong qualifies as prior art, if at all only under 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, all of the obviousness rejections are now moot and should be withdrawn. The only other rejections, which were made to claims 53 and 54, are also moot inasmuch as claims 53 and 54 have been amended to depend on independent claims 1 and 27.

Accordingly, all of the rejections of record are now moot. Nevertheless, Applicants have still amended the claims, although this was not necessary to distinguish the claims from the cited art, to add additional clarity to the recited claims and to simplify their presentation for examination. In particular, claims 1, 24, 27, 48 and 52-54 have been amended and claims 22-23

¹ Although the prior art status and some of the assertions made with regard to the cited art is not being challenged at this time, inasmuch as it is not necessary following the amendments and remarks made herein, which distinguish the claims from the art of record, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status and assertions made with regard to the cited art, as well as any official notice, which was taken in the last office action, at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise, such as, for example in a subsequent amendment or during prosecution of a related application. Accordingly, Applicants' decision not to respond to any particular assertions or rejections in this paper should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to said assertions or rejections.

Application No. 10/003,750
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and 55-59 have been cancelled, such that claims 1-21 and 24-54 remain pending for reconsideration and of which claims 1, 24, 27, 48 and 52 are the only independent claims at issue.

Although it is not necessary to address any specific assertions made with regard to the cited art, inasmuch as all of the rejections are now moot, Applicants will take this opportunity to again respectfully submit that Tuatini fails to disclose or suggest the claim elements recited in the claims.

The present invention is directed to embodiments in which identity-centric data associated with an identity is maintained by a service that is independent of an application seeking to operate on the data. In these embodiments, the identity is able to maintain control over the access privileges associated with the data, so as to control access to the data by the application(s). Application requests to access or operate on the data are sent to the service as network messages that include the identification of the identity as well as a schema associated with the identity data structure maintained by the service.

These embodiments dealing with the storage and access of identity centric data are neither anticipated by nor made obvious by Tuatini. In fact, Applicants are confused as to the choice of art (Tuatini) that the Examiner is asserting against the claims because of the clear distinctions between the art and the claimed invention. Unlike the present invention, Tuatini merely discloses an application architecture that allows applications to intercommunicate. An application framework receives requests for services from clients, identifies application handler components that can service the requests and application view handler components that can format the responses. The application framework then invokes the application and view handler components to formulate the response, which is then sent back to the clients. The communication model of Tuatini fails to correspond at all to the identity-centric data access embodiments recited in the claims.

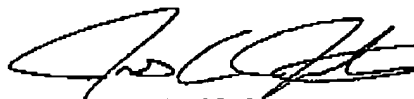
To help clarify the recited claim embodiments, the claim language has been amended. It will be appreciated, however, that these claim amendments are not necessitated by the rejections or art of record. Instead, these amendments are merely being made to help clarify the scope of the claims.

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In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 7 day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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